

REMARKS

The present response traverses the rejections noted in the Office Action.

Allowable Subject Matter

Applicant notes with appreciation the Examiner's indication of allowable subject matter in dependent claim 5. In view of the traversal of the base claim, claim 5 has not been rewritten at this time.

Summary of the Response

Withdrawn claims 10-23 have been canceled without prejudice. Claim 3 has been amended. New claims 24-42 have been added. Claims 1-9 and 24-42 remain pending in this application. Reexamination and reconsideration of the present application as amended are respectfully requested.

Summary of the Rejections

Claims 1 and 2 have been provisionally rejected as claiming the same invention as that of claims 1 and 2 of copending Application No. 11/081,523. Claims 1-4 and 6-9 have been rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being obvious over U.S. Patent No. 5,986,729 to Yamanaka. These rejections are respectfully traversed in view of the amendments and arguments below.

Summary of the Invention

The present invention is directed to a liquid crystal panel that provides for both active matrix and passive matrix modes on the same liquid crystal layer. Separate electrodes are provided on the same side of the liquid crystal layer, corresponding to active and passive modes, respectively. They can be separately and optionally operated to activate the passive matrix mode or active matrix mode. A complementary electrode is provided on another side of the liquid crystal layer (e.g., a common electrode or two electrodes each acting in conjunction with a respective one of the electrodes on the other side of the liquid crystal layer). There is no liquid crystal layer between the layers of electrodes on each side of the liquid crystal layer.

Double Patenting Rejection

In view that the double patenting rejection is provisional in nature, Applicant defers responding to this issue until it becomes necessary.

Claim Rejection Under 35 USC 103 over Yamanaka

It appears that the Examiner did not fully appreciate the deficiencies of Yamanaka. Yamanaka is not directed to a liquid crystal panel that provides for both active matrix and passive matrix modes. Instead, Yamanaka discloses a liquid crystal layer structure that comprises stacked "microcapsules", each of which comprises a liquid crystal layer sandwiched between a pair of electrodes. Further the pixels in Yamanaka are controlled by TFTs, so there is no provision for passive matrix mode, much less provisions for both active and passive modes.

In effect, Yamanaka teaches away from passive matrix mode in its intricate multi-layer microcapsule structure.

Accordingly, there is no disclosure or suggestion for the following structures defined by the claims pending in the present application:

(a) the combination of "a first set of electrode layers with an active matrix; a second set of electrode layers with a passive matrix; wherein the first set of the electrode layers or the second set of the electrode layers are activated optionally to create images", as defined by claims 1 and 2; or

(b) the combination of a first and second opposing substrates, a first upper electrode formed on the color filter which is on the second substrate, and a first and second lower electrodes formed on the layers on the first substrate, wherein only one of the first lower electrode and the second lower electrode is operatively coupled to one of the plurality of thin film transistors to correspond to an active matrix mode, and the other one of the first lower electrode and the second lower electrode corresponds to a passive matrix mode; as recited in claim 3.

New Claims

New claims 24-42 have been added to round out the coverage of the present invention. Applicant respectfully submits that the new claims are patentable over Yamanaka. Yamanaka does not teach or render obvious the structures recited in the new claims.

New dependent claims 24-34 recite additional structures. For example, new dependent claims 24 and 28 recite the first set of electrode layers comprises a first pair of electrodes operating on the liquid crystal layer, wherein the second set of electrode layers comprises a

second pair of electrodes operating on the same liquid crystal layer, and wherein the first pair of the electrodes or the second pair of electrodes are selectively operated to create images with the same liquid crystal layer. Dependent claims 25 and 29 further recite that at least the first and second upper electrodes or the first and second lower electrodes are stacked in layers on a same side of the liquid crystal layer, without any liquid crystal layer between the stacked layers. Dependent claims 26 and 30 further recite that at least the first and second upper electrodes or the first and second lower electrodes are staggered on a same side of the liquid crystal layer.

Dependent claim 32 recites that the first upper electrode is disposed on one side of the liquid crystal layer, and the first lower electrode and second lower electrode are disposed on another side of the liquid crystal layer, wherein the first upper electrode, the first lower electrode and the second lower electrode operate on the same liquid crystal layer, and wherein the first lower electrode or the second lower electrode is selectively operated to create images with the same liquid crystal layer. Dependent claims 33 and 34 further respectively recite that the first and second lower electrodes are stacked in layers on said another side of the liquid crystal layer, without any liquid crystal layer between the stacked layers, and that the first and second lower electrodes are staggered on said another side of the liquid crystal layer.

With respect to new independent claim 35, Yamanaka does not disclose or render obvious a liquid crystal panel that comprises a liquid crystal layer; a first electrode disposed on the first side of the liquid crystal layer; a second electrode disposed on the same first side of the liquid crystal layer; at least a third electrode disposed on the second side of the liquid crystal layer, wherein the first and second electrode selectively operate with the third electrode, to create images with the same liquid crystal layer, as recited in new independent claim 35. Dependent claim 36 further recites that there is no liquid crystal layer between the first and second

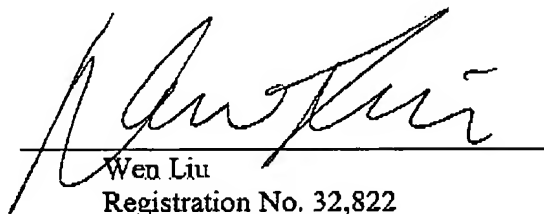
electrodes (which are on the same first side of the liquid crystal layer). Dependent claim 37 further recites that the first and second electrodes are stacked in layers on the first side of the liquid crystal layer, without any liquid crystal layer between the stacked layers. Dependent claim 40 further recites that the reflective layer is perforated (thus allowing transmission of light from a backlight module; see paragraph [0032] in the specification). Dependent claim 42 further recites a substrate and a thin film transistor disposed on the substrate, wherein only one of the first and second electrodes is operatively coupled to the thin film transistor to correspond to an active matrix mode, and the other one of the first and second electrodes corresponds to a passive matrix mode.

CONCLUSION

In view of all the foregoing, Applicant submits that the claims pending in this application are patentable over the references of record and are in condition for allowance. Such action at an early date is earnestly solicited. **The Examiner is invited to call the undersigned representative to discuss any outstanding issues that may not have been adequately addressed in this response.**

Respectfully submitted,

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Wen Liu
Registration No. 32,822

LIU & LIU
444 S. Flower Street; Suite 1750
Los Angeles, California 90071
Telephone: (213) 830-5743
Facsimile: (213) 830-5741